

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the VA Central California Health Care System on this outstanding accomplishment. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the administration and staff of the VA Central California Health Care System congratulations on this achievement and many years of continued success.

A GIFT OF LIFE

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary little girl from my state of Illinois, Megan Dawson. Five-year old Megan is a liver recipient. An organ became available for Megan in time to give her a chance at what hopefully will be a long and active life. But everyone is not as lucky as Megan. Every two hours, one of the more than 60,000 Americans now on transplant waiting lists dies for lack of an available organ.

Megan's story should remind all of us that organ donation is the most precious gift that one human can give to another. During the first nine months of last year in my state, almost 800 residents had life-saving transplants of the kidney, liver, pancreas, intestines, lung or heart. They all received the gift of life.

Unfortunately, while the science of transplantation has made dramatic gains, the number of organ donors is not keeping pace. As a result, we have growing waiting lists. The only way to address this growing crisis is to discuss transplantation and organ donation with our families.

It shouldn't actually be all that hard a subject to bring up, because what we are really talking about is the miracle of transplantation—the miracle that gives a little girl like Megan a second chance at life. The subject for the family discussion is the wonders of modern medicine. And since we would hope that the miracle of a new chance at life through transplantation would be available to a member of our family in a time of need—and it would be, provided an organ becomes available—shouldn't we agree as a family to do the right and generous thing if the situation is ever reversed. It's really no more than that—the application of the old Golden Rule to modern medicine.

That is why I am proud to have signed on to the First Family Pledge. The First Family Pledge is a non-partisan effort sponsored by the American Society of Transplant Surgeons. I encourage my colleagues and constituents to pay attention to this life-saving initiative. And on April 14th, I will be proud to participate in the First Family Pledge Congress. At that time, I and many of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle will greet young children from across this great nation who have received organ and tissue transplants. They are truly living examples of what it is to receive the gift of life.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO THE MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, today I ask all members of the House to join me in honoring the Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution (MSSDAR) as they celebrate a "Century of Service" at their 100th State Conference on March 12–14, 1999. The century celebration will feature remembrances of ten decades of conference highlights, recognition of this year's Outstanding State History Teacher, and the presentation of scholarships and awards to exemplary Missouri students. The first state conference was held in a stately St. Louis home on November 15, 1899 with eight members in attendance.

Today, the MSSDAR, founded in 1894 in Kansas City, has over 5,500 members in 116 Chapters throughout the state dedicated to historic preservation, promotion of education and patriotic endeavor. Additionally, they play a leadership role in helping inform its members and the general public about the need for a strong national defense.

The MSSDAR is affiliated with the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR). Incorporated by an Act of Congress in 1896, the NSDAR is a non-profit, non-political, volunteer service organization with nearly 180,000 women in some 3,000 chapters in each of the fifty states, the District of Columbia, Australia, Canada, France, Mexico, the United Kingdom and Japan. The Society was founded in Washington, D.C. on October 11, 1890, and has celebrated more than 100 years of service to the nation.

Mr. Speaker, I know the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to the Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution as they celebrate their "Century of Service."

TRIBUTE TO RULON STACEY

HON. BOB SCHAFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. SCHAFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Rulon Stacey who was named Young Health Care Executive of the Year by the American College of Health Care Executives. He is the Chief Executive Officer of Poudre Valley Hospital in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Poudre Valley Hospital is not only the largest hospital in my district, it is the hub of a much larger health care system serving communities throughout eastern Colorado, Wyoming, and Nebraska. Since Mr. Stacey joined the Poudre Valley Health System in 1996, the system has grown to include Mountain Crest Orthopedic Center of the Rockies, Estes Park Medical Center, Children's Clinic, Northside Health Center, and regional trauma, heart, and neuroscience centers.

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Mr. Stacey earned this award because he has worked to bring together diverse interests in the medical community into a partnership. His talents have earned him the respect of his colleagues and associates. The ultimate benefactors of his work, however, may never know his name. They are the patients and their families served by the network of care at the Poudre Valley Health System. On behalf of my constituents, I congratulate Mr. Stacey on his award and commend his work to the House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO LOUIS BRYANT

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a teacher from my district who has received national recognition for his exemplary courage and selflessness in the face of adversity. Mr. Louis Bryant of Louisville is a social studies teacher at Ballard High School who recently accompanied a group of students to Ghana, Africa, on a cultural exchange program. During an afternoon excursion the group's bus was in a terrible accident. Mr. Bryant—the most seriously injured passenger—refused to leave his students even though he had been told that, without an immediate airlift to the United States and emergency surgery, he could lose his hand.

The U.S. Embassy in Ghana reported that Mr. Bryant ignored his own injuries and instead tried to keep his students optimistic and upbeat. He remained at the hospital in Ghana with his students until they all returned home together. Nearly 4 weeks later, Mr. Bryant still is undergoing painful surgery and rehabilitation in an effort to save his hand. Not once, however, has he expressed regret about his decision to remain with his students.

Without question, Mr. Bryant's dedication, courage, and self-sacrifice warrant the admiration of his community and this Nation. He is evidence that there are heroes among us. I heartily applaud Mr. Bryant and, once again, wish to express to him the gratitude that all members of the Louisville community feel for his heroic actions.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR FREE, FAIR, AND TRANSPARENT ELECTIONS IN INDONESIA

SPEECH OF

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in support of H. Res. 32, a resolution calling for free, fair and transparent elections in Indonesia, but also to commend the attention of my colleagues to the plight of the people of East Timor, the tiny island illegally occupied by Indonesia for over 25 years.

I have been greatly encouraged by recent demonstrations of reform in Indonesia, yet the